

THE ESTANCIA NEWS.

VOLUME I.

ESTANCIA, TORRANCE COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1905.

NUMBER 15.

HELD TO AWAIT ACTION OF GRAND JURY WITHOUT BAIL.

For Assassination of Colonel J. Francisco Chavez at Pinos Wells
November 26th, 1904.

CORDOVA GIVES TESTIMONY CHARGING VALLES WITH AWFUL CRIME.

Hearing is Had in Schoolhouse Before Judge Mann of the Sixth Judicial District. Much
Circumstantial Evidence Weaves Net Closer Entangling Valles.

Another chapter is to be recorded in the assassination of Col. J. Francisco Chavez at Pinos Wells, Nov. 26, 1904. Procopio Cordova, who was arrested about two weeks ago charged with the murder testified against Domingo Valles.

The preliminary hearing came up before Edward A. Mann, Judge of the Sixth Judicial District on Wednesday evening, Frank W. Clancy prosecuting and O. Larazola, attorney for the defedant.

Harry Bennett, manager of the Chavez ranch at Progreso, was the first witness called. In his testimony it was brought out that the defendant had been caught with a bay mare on which Col. Chavez brand had been burned out or changed. After being allowed to use the horse defendant proposed to retain it, and give witness a stallion in exchange, provided witness did not tell Colonel of the transaction. Witness did not hear of murder until nearly noon Sunday and did not reach the place of murder until about 2 p. m.

James W. Chavez, son of the murdered man, said in his testimony: "I met papa at Estancia Saturday morning November 26th. Did not know that he intended going to Pinos Wells until we talked and boarded the train. We rode to Progreso where George Stevenson and myself left the train. We had a couple of sacks of corn, which with our grips and coats we put into the depot and walked to the ranch. Here we met Bennett and Valles and a boy. Valles was tying a broken buckboard to back axle of his wagon. I told Bennett of the corn at depot and Valles offered his team and wagon to fetch it. I said we would hitch up our own and looking up saw papa on rear of train waving at us. About three minutes after I came up Valles got into his wagon and drove hurriedly away. I mentioned that that fellow must be in a hurry. I don't know if anybody mentioned where papa was going or not.

James M. Chase was the first officer to reach the scene of the murder. In his testimony he explained that tracks showed that the murderer had gone to two other windows before reaching the one through which the shot was fired. Here the tracks appeared to show that the man had crept up lightly and looked in, then stepping a little to one side fired the shot, the ball piercing the window pane at angle, shattering same. It seems the assassin made a jump 8 or 9 feet from where he stood and then ran. We followed the trail around a small lot. I returned to Torrance and came back to Pino with the posse. We went to back of house, but all tracks were about tramped out for 50 or 60 yards from house. Here were 2 or 3 tracks, but these the hounds didn't take very well on account of so many tracks. This was at sundown so we gave up until next day.

Monday morning we put dogs on trail but I don't know if they ever succeeded in smelling tracks or not. We followed it quite a ways and found where a pony had been tied, but the pony tracks were soon lost in a bunch of sheep tracks.

The hoof seemed very small and almost round. Couldn't tell whether horse was shod or not as I followed tracks in sand. Page Otero and Mr. Mosely measured track of man, showing it to be 8 1/2 to 9 inches long. The sole on right

was worn almost thro, part remaining, but the middle seemed all gone. My first arrival at the house was at 3 a. m. Saw body of Colonel, dead, Saw wound. Bullet entered above left breast and came out under right shoulder blade. The bullet was recovered. It was of lead, flattened considerably, could not have been larger than 38 calibre, possibly a 32. It tore very large hole and was probably flattened in striking window pane.

C. A. Huber, went from Santa Fe to Pinos Wells on the 27th, arriving at 5.30 pm, with Charley Goldsmith and the dogs. We got off the wagon with dogs and went back of house to take up trail, but on account of darkness could not do any thing until morning. In the morning the dogs were very slow, and when in an arroyo, the men on the rise called to us that they had found where a horse had been tied to a bush. Dogs picked up horse trail and followed it 3 or 4 miles, lost it, later taking it up again, following very close to Valles ranch. On Tuesday morning saw tracks resembling these in Valles' corral. A roan animal there claimed by defendant made such tracks. The hoof is round but has mule shoes, spread a little on hind feet. No shoes on fore feet.

Procopio Cordova testified that he came to the Valles ranch on Sunday morning, Nov. 27, about 8 or 9 o'clock from Casa Colorado, having spent the night at Punta de Mesa, Has known Valles for four years, but not very close friends. Met Valles coming from corral who asked us to have coffee. Latter he asked me to bring up wagons and unhitch and put horses in the corral. Then we went to draw water for the horses. I remarked on the quantity of water he had. He said yes he had plenty. I asked if was't prosecuted over this ranch and he answered, Francisco Chavez is a friend of mine. Afterward standing in the corral he said, 'Look here Don Francisco wanted to give me trouble over that bay mare but I fixed him. I killed him and to close Harry's eyes, I gave him a brown stallion.' He then caught a horse saying I'm going to Progreso to catch the train to Willard to see if my machine has come. I said I'm going to Pinos Wells to Saiz' to get a mare of mine. He offered to loan me a horse to ride and asked me to find out what was going on at Pino. When I put my saddle and gun on his horse, his boy said, "what large cartridges you have! I have one here." It was smaller than mine. Mine are 40-65. I reached Pino after dinner, saw dead body of Colonel. Many people present. Returned to Valles' ranch on Tuesday. He was not there.

On cross examination Cordova repeated that the defendant had said he had killed Chavez, but hadn't told officers as it wasn't his place to tell. First told Dick Huber when in Santa Fe. Then it seemed the witness' memory left him and he showed what a splendid "forgettery" he had as he didn't remember anything more.

The defense offered no testimony in rebuttal, but asked bail and argued this point before the court. The court or

SETTLERS PROFIT BY ADVERTISING.

Many People Hear of Estancia Valley and
Come to See for Themselves.

Every day last week we mailed sample copies of the NEWS in response to requests received for the paper of the county. We are glad to advertise the great Estancia Valley in this way, and it is having its effect as is shown by the way settlers are coming in. We have bonafide subscribers all the way from Los Angeles, California to Atlanta, Ga., and Florence, S. C.

The people are reading the advertising of the valley and upon coming, say, it has not been misrepresented to them. The past week has brought several new faces amongst us. H. F. Barfoot, of Snyder, Tex., has decided to be an Estancian from henceforth. George Dent and Peter Jacobson have taken claims north of the ranch of Frank Zink. Mr. Blackwell who conducts a grocery business near Three Rivers, was in town Saturday purchasing lots 6 and 7, block 41, just south of the News office, on which he will erect a handsome business block. His father-in-law a Mr Adkinson, of Otero county will arrive shortly to take a look for himself. Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore, relatives of Judge J. A. Lee came in from the Choctaw country and expect to make this their future home. As stated in last weeks issue Fred Hood, of Crystal Springs, Miss, is here to locate some half dozen or more settlers from the Sunny South. The almost certainly which Estancia has for the county seat, together with its natural advantages is drawing people from all points.

When people once see the valley and grasp its possibilities, they are immediately won to the capitol of Torrance county. With a good class of people, good schools, and church privileges, the valley will come to the front, and come a whooping. Keep your eye on Estancia and Torrance County!

The Railroads.

Rumor had it that work will begin in earnest on the Santa Fe Cut-off not later than the first of March. This rumor is based on the fact that a carload of tents and similar material was shipped into Belen this week. And also by the fact that on Monday Col. W. S. Hopewell conducted a party of Santa Fe officials over the line making minute measurements of all switches, etc. It is presumed that this is done preparatory to entering into trackage arrangement, and, if this is the case, activity at this end of the line may be expected. The official meeting of stockholders on Tuesday last at Topeka may reveal something of interest in regard to the resumption of work.

Although work has necessarily been suspended temporarily on the Albuquerque Eastern at the Moriarty end, on account of the cold weather and snow, yet it goes merrily on at the Albuquerque end. Two grading camps are pushing the work near Menaul School, one working east and the other west into the city, several miles being graded. In Albuquerque rumors are afloat that the right of way and depot sight have been arranged and that work on the depot building will be begun ere long.

Mrs. H. B. Hawkins received a telegram from her daughter, Mrs. Hendrickson, of Pogos Springs, announcing the death of the infant daughter of the latter

dered that defendant be held to await action of the Grand Jury without privilege of bail and that Cordova be held as witness in the sum of \$1,000. In default of securing this amount, he with the defendant to be committed to the Territorial Penitentiary for safe-keeping.

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Las Nuevas de La Estancia